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to share Christ's love  
at the time of need,  
patient by patient

# LifeLines

Winter 2011

  
INTERNATIONAL  
HEALTHSERVICES  
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## YEAR IN REVIEW SPECIAL EDITION

### *IHS Heartbeat* | DNA of the International Saline Partnership

Meetings of the INTERNATIONAL SALINE Partnership in 2011 gave evidence that a spirit of humility pervades the partners' shared ministry. Humility could well be considered the defining quality, the DNA, of this Partnership, because the leaders of its member organizations desire to be "one in spirit and of one mind" as they train healthcare workers to show patients the love and reality of Jesus. (Philippians 2:1-4)

Unity in Christ is expressed through a vision and mission that the nine partnering organizations have covenanted to share. While representing a diversity of cultures and healthcare occupations, also being of varied size and holding their own ministry objectives, all of the partners desire to see the Great Commission fulfilled through indigenous Christian healthcare workers around the world.

At the Leadership Summit in Budapest, Hungary, in January of 2011, the Partnership CEOs confirmed their aim to use

International Saline as the tool by which their organizations will equip healthcare workers. When the leaders met in Hungary, the strength of their connection was obvious. "It reminded me of a close-knit family gathering," says Bob Snyder, president of International Health Services.

By September 2011, at the 75th anniversary World Conference of Healthcare Christian Fellowship International held in Manila, Philippines, all of the partners enthusiastically confirmed that the covenant is a reality, each one understanding afresh from one another that excellent, abundant fruit is being borne from International Saline training and from identifying new trainers.

The centrality of the training to the partners' work came across also in the conference networking of participants. Multiplying Trainer Marilyn Rollier, from French-speaking Switzerland, said, "After this conference even more it's clear this course is important. It is being spoken about all over in different groups and everywhere it seems people are talking about International Saline, to have something in hand to restart their work [of evangelism], to go on and equip healthcare workers."

Training in Manila gave the partner CEOs hope for even more fruit to come. Thirty-three new trainer-candidates, representing 23 nationalities, acquired tools to share Christ's love that they are confident about using. You will find descriptions from a few participants inside this issue of *LifeLines*.

The task ahead is great, but the strength in unity of the International Saline Partnership makes it a powerful force — that which only humble submission to God can produce.



Partnership leaders in Manila (l. to r.): Michael Burke, Christian Medical and Dental Fellowship of Australia; Jim Peipon, Ukraine Medical Outreach; Manoj Jacob, Evangelical Medical Fellowship of India; Chris Steyn, Healthcare Christian Fellowship International; Barbara White, Nurses Christian Fellowship International; Bob Snyder, International Health Services; Vinod Shah, International Christian Medical and Dental Association; Kevin Vaughan, former International Saline director for Christian Medical Fellowship-United Kingdom, now directed by Pablo Fernandez (photo at right); IHS International Director Gábor Györi, present in Manila to represent IHS-Hungary, which József Györi leads (photo at right).



Pablo Fernandez, CMF-UK



József Györi, IHS-Hungary

## 2011 Reflection | The Advantage of Being God's Servant

As 2011 nears to an end, I am more encouraged than ever by the focus and strength of the International Saline Partnership. The leaders of the partner organizations met, worshiped and prayed together in Hungary in January and in Manila in September; meetings that bookended a year of fruitful ministry. I have been blessed by knowing how much these leaders seek to represent Christ to the world according to the criteria set forth in Philippians 2:

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant. (5-7)

Relationships according to the mindset of Jesus must be supported by much prayer and maintained by humble reliance on God's Spirit. Since collaboration of the International Saline

Partnership is marked by both prayer and humility, I remain hopeful that the work of International Health Services – the “glue” of this great Partnership – has that same “advantage” of being God's servant.

To be God's servant is to be in the company of Jesus and his faithful followers. I can think of nothing in the world greater than that. Thank you for joining us — it is like heaven on earth!

Gratefully yours,



Bob Snyder, MD

President of International Health Services



## Welcoming Two New Board Members

### Gary Frey

Gary Frey has spent most of his career in marketing-oriented positions and has served as president of four successful companies. Gary has held executive positions in two Fortune 100 companies, Bank of America and First Union, and helped both through major branding or re-branding efforts. Prior to joining the IHS Board of Directors, Gary served the Cleveland City Stars (a professional USL soccer team that was a U.S. outreach arm of Ambassadors In Sport) as an Advisory Board member and was active with a sister USL soccer ministry organization, the Charlotte Eagles. Gary has been a drummer in worship ministries of churches he has attended since 2002. He is a triathlete, father of two grown sons (Zach and Josiah), father-in-law to Josiah's wife, Cali, and married to Jennifer, the wife of his dreams.



(l. to r.) Cali, Josiah, Zach, Jennifer, Gary

### Renee' Stearns

Renee' Stearns draws on her experience and passion as a Christian, attorney, wife and mother to speak on behalf of mothers and children she meets in her travels to World Vision projects around the world. She desires to help people see the world from a God-honoring perspective and to move them to do something about what they see. Renee' holds a Bachelor of Arts in government from Cornell University and a law degree from Boston College. She served as a legal services attorney for poor people in the Boston area before devoting herself fulltime to raising her children. She teaches, writes articles and Bible study curricula, and frequently speaks at conferences and retreats. Renee' has served on various boards of Christian ministries that focus on empowering impoverished women. Married to Rich Stearns, president of World Vision United States, she has five grown children and one adorable grandson.



(back row, l. to r.) Pete, Hannah, Grace; (front row, l. to r.) Andy, Kirsten, Rich and Renee', Sarah, Irving

# In Their Own Words

## Trainer-Candidates from around the world on Manila Experience

“I feel equipped to go out and make a difference in the health field.”

- Ntsabane,  
a nurse from

**South  
Africa**

“Starting my plan of action is easier because of the concrete examples that were given. It made things very lively and not just theory.”

- Edith, a doctor from

**Philippines**

“Trainers Alet, Gábor and Bob are three angels!”

- Samuel, a hospital administrator from

**India**

“We are not converting but are a reflector of Jesus.”

- Philippe,  
a nurse from

**Israel**

“I will change my work attitude, and leave enough time to talk to my patient.”

- a doctor from

**East  
Asia**

## Ministry Investment Opportunity

### Supporting Dramatic Growth of the Ministry

Use of International Saline training has grown dramatically in the past few years. As the central evangelism training tool, adopted by a partnership of nine Christian international medical associations, strategies to ensure its widespread use are continually being refined. From 398 witnesses trained in 2007, the number of healthcare workers who have engaged the process has reached at least 6500 in 2011. To link these workers across great distances and cultural diversity, and thus provide them with increased means to benefit from a like-minded community, web-based connectivity has become a pressing need.

Nurturing growth of the ministry by fostering communications fits with the role of International Health Services as the glue of the International Saline Partnership. Therefore, during this past year, IHS gave due attention to assessing what would help to connect ministry stakeholders and what is required in order to meet the needs of culturally diverse trainers, especially those in countries that restrict expressions of Christian faith.

Chris Steyn, head of Healthcare Christian Fellowship International, conservatively estimates that 1.5 million evangelicals are working in healthcare globally. “The personal impression I have,” says Steyn, “is that relatively more Christians are involved in healthcare than in other professions.” Given this statistic, and considering the unparalleled opportunity that healthcare workers have to share Christ’s love in their workplace, the numeric reach of International Saline can be multiplied by a factor of 230 and still not see an end to reaching more workers.

The multiplying model is already being employed, as more and more workers are becoming competent to train their colleagues. However, something greater than exponential growth can occur once there is a communications medium that readily facilitates

it, that is, the viral effect that is sparked once people who are exposed to information and are using it effectively can readily connect with others who want to do likewise.

Amazing growth of ministry is one aspect of fostering communications, but deepening the training of trainers and sustaining growth over time, especially through mentoring relationships at a distance, is even more reason to have interactive, online access to the International Saline process and resources and, especially, a means to connect with the people involved. One of the most common feedback messages from the training that IHS receives is that workers wish to hear from others who are implementing the training about their experiences and to receive prayer for their particular circumstances.

For specific information about supporting the growth of the ministry and ways to invest in new developments, please contact Nancy McHugh, [nmchugh@internationalhealthservices.org](mailto:nmchugh@internationalhealthservices.org)



# Please Join Us in Prayer

## ► Prayer for Ministry Opportunity in South Sudan

Fifty years of intermittent civil war between the Muslim north and Christian south, left South Sudan with a decimated healthcare system in 2006, possibly the worst in the world. By late 2010, the interim government had transitioned from relief to development by building up local leadership to provide primary healthcare. When South Sudan became an independent nation in July 2011, the new government led by President Salva Kiir Mayardit, a Roman Catholic, turned to two chief allies in transforming the nation's healthcare: the Episcopal Church and International Christian Medical and Dental Association (ICMDA, covenanted with the International Saline Partnership). The doctor appointed to carry through ICMDA's role in the agreement, Dr. Alex Bolek, is a Sudanese doctor who engaged International Saline as a trainer-candidate in June 2010. Please pray for:

- The South Sudanese government in its major effort to improve healthcare.
- Dr. Vinod Shah, head of ICMDA, as he facilitates the collaboration of the church, government and ICMDA.
- Dr. Bolek's finding ways to imbed International Saline training into the healthcare system as part of the transformation taking place.

## It's as easy as the click of a button!



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## Praise God!

### ► Praise for Salt & Light in East Asia

For a second time in two years, International Saline was offered in East Asia. The session drew 25 trainer-candidates from six provinces in all geographic directions, and from varied healthcare professions. Training was provided in English with an I.S.-trained interpreter. By the end, all participants were committing their lives to serve the Lord in seeing the Great Commission fulfilled through their lives and healthcare workplaces. Healthcare fellowships are forming in this country as local chapters of Salt & Light, an association of HCFL. The East Asian leaders are doing an excellent job networking and coordinating International Saline. Praise God for them and for their dedication to the ministry!

## Life Lines

A newsletter of  
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### Online giving?

It's as simple as 1-2-3! Please see reverse side of mailer for details.

Call Nancy McHugh, 610-935-6030, if you have any questions.

“IHS has been a model of God's love to us. We praise God for your coming. We praise God for your lives!”

- Erasmia, wife of the late Francis Grim (he founded Healthcare Christian Fellowship International in 1936)



## Lessons Learned on the Journey by Dr. Bob Snyder

**FREE**, online weekly faith stories from Dr. Snyder illuminate biblical principles for followers of Jesus. With intimacy, honesty, and openness, the lessons encourage readers to look for God in their own adventure of faith. Great as discussion starters in Sunday School or a small group. Sign up today! Visit: [www.lessonslernedonthejourney.com](http://www.lessonslernedonthejourney.com)

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